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ABSTRACT

North Carolina and Florida lead the nation in total number of teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. About 71 percent of all NBPTS certificates were awarded to teachers in Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states in 2000-01. Seven SREB states were among the top 10 states in number of teachers earning NBPTS certification in 2000-01. Between 1999-00 and 2000-01, Georgia had one of the largest increases in the number of certificates awarded, from 51 to 310. South Carolina surpassed the governor's goal of having 500 teachers with NBPTS certification by 2002. National certification was awarded to 928 South Carolina teachers in 2000-01. Most SREB states encouraged teachers to attain NBPTS certification by offering salary bonuses or funding for examination fees. Legislative actions in 2001 in SREB states included: Arkansas teachers received raises in initial and annual bonuses; Louisiana school administrators who earned NBPTS certification as teachers were allowed to continue receiving annual bonuses of \$5,000; and Alabama increased by 30.8 percent its spending for teachers who pursue or have earned NBPTS certification. As of November 2001, there were over 16,000 U.S. teachers with NBPTS certification, 10,448 in SREB states. A table presents SREB state data on NBPTS certification. (SM)

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Once Again SREB States Lead the Nation in National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification

- North Carolina and Florida lead the nation in the total numbers of teachers with certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. North Carolina has 3,660 teachers with national board certification, and Florida has 2,256. South Carolina's 1,291 teachers with certification from the national board ranks fifth in the nation.
- Nearly three-fourths (71 percent) of all National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificates were awarded to teachers in SREB states in 2000-2001. Of 6,501 certificates awarded, 4,626 were awarded to teachers in SREB states. More than one-third of all U.S. teachers are in the SREB states.
- Seven SREB states are among the top 10 states in the number of teachers who earned certification from the national board in 2000-2001. Those states are North Carolina (1,260), Florida (992), South Carolina (928), Mississippi (405), Georgia (310), Alabama (164) and Virginia (132).
- Between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, Georgia had one of the largest increases in the number of certificates awarded — from 51 in 1999-2000 to 310 in 2000-2001.
- South Carolina has surpassed the governor's goal of having 500 teachers with certification from the national board by 2002. National certification was awarded to 928 teachers in South Carolina in 2000-2001. The governor recently issued a news release in which he set the goal of having 5,000 South Carolina teachers with certification from the national board by 2005.

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State policies continue to make a difference

Most SREB states encourage teachers to attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards by offering them salary bonuses or funding for examination fees.

Legislative actions in 2001 in SREB states:

- Teachers in Arkansas previously received initial bonuses of \$2,000 and yearly bonuses of \$2,000 for the 10-year life of the certificates. Legislation in 2001 raises the initial bonus to \$5,000 and the annual bonus to \$3,000.
- School administrators in Louisiana who earned certification from the national board as teachers may continue to receive annual bonuses of \$5,000.
- West Virginia has increased the annual bonuses for teachers who have earned certification from the national board to \$2,500 (up from \$1,000). The state budget for this fiscal year includes additional funds for both fees and annual bonuses.
- Alabama has increased by 30.8 percent its spending for teachers who pursue or have earned certification from the national board.
- In Florida, one-time \$500 bonuses have been appropriated for teachers with certification from the national board.

As of November 2001, there were more than 16,000 U.S. teachers with certification from the national board; 10,448 of these teachers were in SREB states. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards sets high standards for what teachers should know and be able to do. Teachers who hold such certification are recognized as experts in their fields.

Teachers With Certification From the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, 2001

	2000-2001 Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued as of Dec. 26, 2001	State Incentives for Teachers With National Certification*
United States	6,501	16,036	
SREB states	4,625	10,448	
Alabama	164	309	\$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Arkansas	34	59	Initial bonus of \$5,000; annual bonus of \$3,000
Delaware	43	106	Annual bonus of 12 percent for the life of the certificate
Florida	992	2,256	Annual bonus of 10 percent of the prior year's average salary for teachers for the life of the certificate
Georgia	310	422	10 percent of the state portion of salary annually for the life of the certificate (calculated once upon certification)
Kentucky	66	141	\$2,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Louisiana	43	85	\$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate
Maryland	65	136	State will match up to \$2,000 the one-time or annual bonuses provided by local boards
Mississippi	405	1,159	\$6,000 annually for the life of the certificate
North Carolina	1,260	3,660	12 percent of salary annually for the life of the certificate (calculated annually)
Oklahoma	122	394	\$5,000 annually for the life of the certificate (\$7,000 when state spending per student reaches 90 percent of regional average)
South Carolina	928	1,291	\$2,000 upon certification; annual bonus of \$7,500
Tennessee	11	40	No monetary bonus provided by the state
Texas	20	58	No monetary bonus provided by the state
Virginia	132	278	\$5,000 the first year; \$2,500 annually for the remainder of the certificate
West Virginia	31	54	\$2,500 annually for the life of the certificate; funds have been increased for certification fees and annual bonuses

* Bonuses and incentives in some state may be affected by the changing economy this year.

Sources: National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; SREB state departments of education



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